

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [40] with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 1(c), canister 112 is such that it can attach to launch vehicle element ~~102~~ 110 and a space tug 120 at the same time. A space tug typically resides docked to the space platform when not in use, or is docked at some other orbit or platform, and then detaches to go out a and pick up a canister. U.S. Patent No.          (~~U.S. Patent Application No. 09/523,401, filed March 10, 2000~~) 6,364,252, which is incorporated by reference herein for all purposes, discloses such a space tug. It should be understood that some other intermediate space vehicle that is not considered a space tug per se might be substituted for a space tug.

Please replace paragraph [56] with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 illustrates signalling pass-throughs 252 of a canister where the connection to a ~~deck~~ docking element is provided via a connector 250. In the case of stacked pass-throughs, the connections of the canisters in the stack could be daisy chained so that the signals pass through the entire stack as if it were one canister and are transmitted or received at the canister closest to the element to which the canister is to be docked.

Please add the following new paragraph at the top of page 1:

**--CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/093,971 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,669,148), filed on March 7, 2002 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPLYING ORBITAL SPACE PLATFORMS USING PAYLOAD CANISTERS VIA INTERMEDIATE ORBITAL RENDEZVOUS AND DOCKING," which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/274,127, filed on March 7, 2001. These applications are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full in this document.--